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   Autore   Lama Ruy

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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; 1. Introduction; 2. The Model; 2.1 Households, International Assets Markets, and Staggered Wage Setting; 2.2 Firms; 2.3 Closing the Model; 3. Bayesian Estimation; 3.1 Data; 3.2 Model Dynamics and Data Transformations; 3.3 Estimation: Priors and Posteriors; Tables; Table 1 Calibrated Parameters; Table 2 Prior Distributions; Table 3 Posterior Distributions, structural parameters; Table 4 Posterior Distributions, shocks parameters; 4. Policy Analysis: Welfare Gains of Entering a Monetary Union; Table 5 Second Moments; Table 6 Steady State Effects and Welfare Gains Table 7 Business Cycle Effects and Welfare Gains5. Sensitivity Analysis; 6. Conclusions; Technical Appendix; References; Figures; Figure 1 Monetary Policy Rates in United Kingdom and the Euro Area: 1999-2011; Figure 2 Trade with Euro Area in France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom; Figure 3 Risk Premium in France, Italy, Spain the United Kingdom; Figure 4 Impulse Response Functions to 25 basis points increase in UIP Shock; Figure 5 Sensitivity Analysis of Welfare
Sommario/riassunto	This paper evaluates the role of trade and financial linkages in the decision to enter a monetary union. We estimate a two-country DSGE model for the U.K. economy and the euro area, and use the model to compute the welfare trade-offs from joining the euro. We evaluate two alternative scenarios. In the first one, we consider a reduction of trade costs that occurs after the adoption of a common currency. In the second, we introduce interest rate spread shocks of the same magnitude as the ones observed during the recent debt crisis in Europe. The reduction of trade costs generates a net welfare gain of 0.9 percent of life-time consumption, while the increased interest rate spread volatility generates a net welfare cost of 2.9 percentage points. The welfare calculation suggests two ways to preserve the welfare gains in a monetary union: ensuring fiscal and financial stability that reduces macroeconomic country risk, and increasing wage flexibility such that the economy adjusts to external shocks faster.